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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of

Akio Shiraiwa

Application No.: 10/688,998

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: CLAMPING DEVICE FOR TOOL  
HOLDER

) MAIL STOP/AF  
)  
) Group Art Unit: 3722  
)  
) Examiner: Willmon Fridie, Jr.  
)  
) Confirmation No.: 6695  
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2005, reconsideration of the present application is requested.

Claims 17 stands rejected as obvious over *Qvart* in view of *Sjoo et al.*, it being asserted that *Sjoo et al* discloses a spring (28) which increases the clamping force. However, the spring 28 of *Sjoo et al.* does not increase the clamping force, but rather reduces the clamping force. In that regard, it will be appreciated that the clamping force exerted by the clamp 16 of *Sjoo et al.* is increased by tightening the fastener 19 to push the clamp downwardly along an inclined surface 20. However, that downward movement of the clamp is opposed by the spring 28 which becomes compressed and stores energy as the clamp moves downwardly. Accordingly, the downward clamping force is reduced by the upward force of the spring.